UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/AC.51/1991/L.4/Add.46
10 June 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION
Thirty-first session
13 May-7 June 1991
Agenda item 7

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS THIRTY-FIRST SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Boris GOUDIMA (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

Section 31. Department of Public Information

1. At its 45th meeting, on 7 June, the Committee considered section 31 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

2. While some delegations stated that the proposed real growth of the Department was excessive, other delegations felt that the growth was commensurate with the important work of the Organization in the area of public information.

3. A few delegations regretted that the publications of the Department were not issued in Arabic.

4. Some delegations noted the absence of a reference to the Trust Fund for African Economic Recovery and Development under both section 31, Public Information, and section 11, Development and international economic cooperation.

5. While one delegation questioned the high priority designation for information activities on the Question of Palestine, several delegations supported this priority designation. One delegation expressed its reservation on the funding of information activities on the Question of Palestine.

6. A few delegations felt that the information activities on human rights could be expanded to include the question of economic rights. One delegation felt that the information activities on economic development should also be accorded high priority.

7. One delegation was of the view that United Nations Day concerts should include musical expressions of various regions in the world.

8. A few delegations expressed concern at the relatively small increase in resources for the United Nations Information Centres.

9. A few delegations queried the progress made in eliminating the backlog of the Yearbook.

10. While one delegation proposed the elimination of United Nations press releases, another recalled its importance for newspaper correspondents accredited to the United Nations.

11. A few delegations were of the view that no clear strategy emerged from the proposed programme budget of this section and felt that it reflected essentially a catalogue of proposed activities.

12. One delegation noted the relatively low proportion of resources proposed for programme support activities.

13. Some delegations felt that justifications for the proposed reclassification of the post of Director of the Communications and Project Management Division from D-1 to the D-2 level was inadequate.

Conclusions and recommendations

14. The Committee emphasized the importance of the Department's work in promoting the goals and the activities of the United Nations.

15. The Committee noted that the format of section 31, which differed from other sections of the budget, did not present a clear relationship between the proposed activities and the resources requested. The Committee further noted that it was difficult to determine the distribution of resources between Headquarters and the field offices. Accordingly, the Committee renewed its request for an improvement in future presentations of this section of the budget.

16. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 31 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.